

Application No.: 09/973,878

Docket No.: 20402-00635-US

REMARKS

The Office Action and prior art relied upon have been carefully considered. Applicant notes the indicated allowability of claim 11, subject to being rewritten to overcome the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

The foregoing amendment complies with the Examiner's requirements so that claim 11 is now in condition for formal allowance.

Claims 1, 2, 7, 9, 13, 14, 17 and 35 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,643,401 to Schulze-Kahlayss et al. On page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner likens the claimed reference band of the present invention to track 11 forming part of the flexible carrier or base film 10. Knobs 15 are providing on the track and it is these knobs that engage guide holes 5 of a component belt 1. The Examiner next likens the claimed bonding tape to components 12 and 16 adhering on the base film 10. However, as clearly indicated in col. 3, lines 7 and 8, reference numeral 12 simply denotes a second track that is parallel to the first track 11. Further, as referenced in col. 3, line 30, a further track 16 is provided, tracks 12 and 16 being separated by a free part of carrier 20. It is Applicants' understanding that the bonding tapes are referenced by 13 and 17 (see col. 3, lines 29-31).

Further, in his analysis of claim 1 and the applied reference, the Examiner considers a straight reference face to be the interior edge of section 11 as shown in Fig. 3. However, since channel 11 is only a portion of the base film 10, there is no raised portion of channel 11 that would form an edge or face, these terms normally requiring depth as opposed to a straight line.

Strips 13 and 17 correspond to the bonding tape of the presently claimed invention. However, claim 1 sets forth a straight reference face which is provided by a reference band positioned to confront the bonding tape.

In order to have a reference face with some depth, one would have to consider strip 13 as providing a reference face. However, that face would be facing what the Examiner considers to be a reference band 11 whereas the presently claimed reference face faces the bonding tape. The

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logical conclusion is that claim 1 defines the reference face as existing in a totally different place and in fact it faces a totally different direction from the claimed invention.

It should be evident that with the construction of claim 1 on the part of the Examiner, the straight reference face would not be available to serially connect two carrier tapes as defined in claim 1.

In fact, Fig. 7 of the reference makes it quit clear that knobs 15 provide the reference used to connect to carrier tapes. These knobs hardly meet the claimed requirement for a reference face. The knobs 15 of the reference may easily be dislocated from the guide holes they engage which would cause dislocation or inclination of connected carrier tapes.

For the reasons set forth above, it is believed that claim 1 defines a patentable distinguishable invention that is not anticipated by Schulze-Kahlayss et al.

In the rejection of claims 3, 4, 5, 8, 19, 20 and 21, the Examiner combines Schulze-Kahlayss et al. with JP 2000-124665 to Sumita et al. The secondary reference is relied upon for transparency and color variation as well as alignment marking. Regardless of the secondary features, the failure of the primary reference to meet the structure of claim 1 renders the dependent claims likewise allowable.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

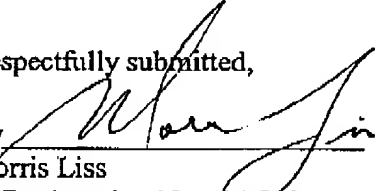
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Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 20402-00635-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: April 1, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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